Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT M 01078 090849Z ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /057 W

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P R 090710Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2502
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CINCPAC HONOLULU

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT PP

SUBJ: SOMARE REELECTED

REF: PORT MORESBY 956

1. MICHAEL SOMARE WAS REELECTED PRIME MINISTER ON AUGUST 9
WITH 69 VOTES IN PARLIAMENT OF 108. AFTER THREE WEEKS OF
RUMOR AND SPECULATION, PANGU/PPP SUPPORT OF 57 REPORTED
REFTEL HELD FIRM WHILE SOMARE CUT INTO OPPOSITION SUPPORT.
DECISIVE VICTORY OVER JOHN GUISE WHO GARNERED 36 VOTES CLIMAXED
WEEK OF GROWING PANGU/PPP CONFIDENCE. EARLY IN WEEK, TWO
MATAUNGANS PRIVATELY PLEDGED SUPPORT TO SOMARE. MORNING
PRESS ON DAY OF VOTE CONTAINED ANNOUNCEMENT BY MOMIS AND
KAPUTIN THAT REGIONAL ALLIANCE WOULD SUPPORT SOMARE (5 MORE
VOTES). BALANCE MADE UP OF UNITED PARTY DEFECTIONS IN
WESTERN HIGHLANDS AND ENGA. COALITION HAS THUS ATTAINED
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REPRESENTATION FROM EACH PROVINCE IN PNG.

2. MOMIS/KAPUTIN ANNOUNCEMENT STATED THAT PANGU/PPP HAD BEEN WILLING TO MEET THEIR TERMS, WHILE NATIONAL ALLIANCE HAD NOT. TERMS THAT HAD BEEN EARLIER ANNOUNCED WERE THREE MINISTRIES: JUSTICE, PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS, AND EDUCATION. EVEN AT THAT, KAPUTIN WAS STILL UNHAPPY WITH DEAL, REFUSING

TO DISCUSS IT WITH NEWSMEN AND LEAVING THE CHAMBER RATHER THAN CASTING HIS VOTE FOR PRIME MINISTER.

3. EARLIER IN DAY, SOMARE CANDIDATE FOR SPEAKER, KINGSFORD DIBELA (INDEPENDENT - MILNE BAY) WAS ELECTED UNOPPOSED.

4. TO MEET LEGAL REQUIREMENT, SOMARE NAMED INTERIM MINISTRY, DIVIDING 18 MINISTRIES BETWEEN 3 PANGU (SOMARE, OLEWALE, AND SALI) 3 PPP (CHAN, JEPHCOTT AND LEMEKI) AND 1 MATAUNGAN (TAMMUR). COMPLETE CABINET EXPECTED TO BE ANNOUNCED WITHIN THE WEEK.

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Message Attributes

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Status: NATIVE Subject: SOMARE REELECTED

TAGS: PINT, PP, (SOMARE, MICHAEL THOMAS)

To: STATE Type: TE

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